

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 478

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and to provide emergency assistance to agricultural producers whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

Mr. SHOWS (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and to provide emergency assistance to agricultural producers whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Farm Emer-
5 gency Energy Assistance Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) sudden and dramatic increases in energy
2 prices have caused an economic disaster for many
3 agricultural producers; and

4 (2) such an economic disaster is as devastating
5 to a community as a natural disaster and should be
6 regarded as such.

7 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRO-**
8 **DUCERS WHOSE ENERGY COSTS HAVE ESCA-**
9 **LATED SHARPLY.**

10 A qualified energy price increase found by the Sec-
11 retary of Agriculture to have been experienced by an agri-
12 cultural producer shall be considered a natural disaster
13 for purposes of subtitle C of the Consolidated Farm and
14 Rural Development Act, but only with respect to such a
15 producer.

16 **SEC. 4. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR AGRI-**
17 **CULTURAL PRODUCERS WHOSE ENERGY**
18 **COSTS HAVE ESCALATED SHARPLY.**

19 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—As soon as prac-
20 ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary of Agriculture shall provide financial assistance
22 directly to agricultural producers on a farm that the Sec-
23 retary finds had a qualified energy price increase to assist
24 the producers in covering all or a portion of the higher

1 operating costs incurred as a result of the increase in en-
2 ergy prices.

3 (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The eligibility of an
4 agricultural producer for assistance under this section
5 does not require either the existence of a natural disaster
6 in the county in which the farm is located or an emergency
7 designation by the President or the Secretary.

8 (c) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made
9 available under the heading “GENERAL PROVI-
10 SIONS—THIS TITLE” in title VIII of the Agriculture,
11 Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and
12 Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted by
13 Public Law 106–387; 114 Stat.1549A–49), to provide as-
14 sistance to agricultural producers under this section.

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The term “ag-
18 ricultural producer” includes crop producers, live-
19 stock and poultry producers, and greenhouse opera-
20 tors.

21 (2) QUALIFIED ENERGY PRICE INCREASE.—The
22 term “qualified energy price increase” means, with
23 respect to agricultural producers on a farm, that the
24 average price paid for energy supplies for the farm
25 during the period that began on January 1, 2000,

1 and ended on the date of the enactment of this Act
2 is at least 25 percent greater than the average price
3 paid for energy supplies for the farm during the pe-
4 riod that began on January 1, 1997, and ended on
5 December 31, 1999.

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